

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Criterion Catalysts and Technologies

West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Criterion Catalyst and Technologies Exceeds OSHA Regulations

Client Profile:

Criterion Catalyst and Technologies is a manufacturer of reforming catalysts for the oil refining industry. Established in 1989, the company employs 40 people at its facility in Willow Island, West Virginia.

Situation:

Criterion Catalyst and Technologies wanted to capture the quantitative exposure measurements to better assess the potential risks to their employees. Victor Stallard, Jr., Criterion Catalyst's Health, Safety & Environmental/Human Resources Director, contacted the West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WVMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

WVMEP's Senior Industrial Hygienist and Safety Specialist, John Frazer, sampled and analyzed the air in each area to measure employee exposure to total particulate, aluminum oxide, and platinum. These samples were compared to OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) threshold limit values (TLVs). WVMEP conducted an on-site respirator education-training program and fit testing for each employee. WVMEP provided ongoing health and safety assistance to Criterion Catalyst and Technologies to assist them with special projects. The industrial hygiene and training program led to an improved work environment due to the new skills and awareness gained. The training has provided a safer work environment and potential entry into new markets.

Results:

- * Estimated loss prevention impact of \$762,168.
- * Provided critical data to document exposures, minimizing OSHA citations.
- * Created healthier work environment.

Testimonial:

"With the assistance of West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership, we have been able to gather the necessary industrial hygienist data to assure that we are protecting our employees properly. The technical expertise that they provide is very valuable. We also appreciate the partnership that we have developed. It make our job much easier!"

Victor Stallard, Director, Health, Safety & Environmental/Human Resources